

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. In a computer system including a host computer, a disk drive host interface and a disk drive having a disk storage medium with a first range of disk drive host interface addressable locations, a method for installing a mailbox file
5 associated with the disk storage medium, the installation method comprising the steps of:
- obtaining a disk drive access key from an access key server, the access key being generated by the access key server as a function of an identifying characteristic of the disk drive;
- 10 creating a mailbox file in the first range of addressable locations using the access key obtained from the access key server; and
- notifying the disk drive of a location of the mailbox file in the first range of addressable locations, wherein the disk drive can perform a function characterized by contents of the mailbox file.
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2. A method according to claim 1, wherein the function is used to access a second range of addressable locations that are not disk drive host interface addressable and that are contained on the disk storage medium.
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3. A method according to claim 2, wherein the access key is required for an application program to access the second range of addressable locations via the mailbox file.
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